

SABA NEWS MARCH 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee News

Since our last report in January, the Committee has been working closely with our new Manager (Gary Deaton). Some new initiatives have been approved and others are in the pipeline. We hope that you will take the time to complete the survey which is due out shortly – we can only proceed with innovations when we know that we have the facts and opinions from you, our members.

The following actions have been taken:

Friday Nights Member's Draw:

A member's name is drawn out at random each Friday night and if the member is playing, he or she will get the prize. At the present time, there are 12 free attendance vouchers as the prize and this will increase by 2 vouchers every week that the prize is not claimed. This scheme was introduced as an attempt to increase attendances on Friday nights.

Sponsorship:

Sponsorship packages are being developed covering advertising and naming rights. Already there has been some interest from businesses that have not been involved with SABA in the past.

Masterpoint and Membership Secretary:

David Anderson has accepted this SABA position. He is used to the software that generates this information and will hold the paid position for one year.

Business Plan:

On Sunday February 7th the Committee aided by Gary Deaton, Helen Dennis, David Lusk and Arthur Porter spent about 4 hours reviewing the progress of the BP that started one year ago. Priorities and actions were examined and alterations and additions were suggested.

House Purchases:

A new water filter has been installed on the Water Cooler as the taste recently has not been good. We have also had to purchase 2 fire extinguishers to comply with fire regulations.

Power upgrade:

The ongoing saga continues. We may not be able to finalise this matter for a while, however we have been given a list of information that is required by

ETSA and are hopeful that this will expedite the process. The Committee is very grateful for the advice being given to us recently by Gordon Fallon (an electrician and Club member) in helping us get through the minefield.

Parking, Bridge Shop, etc:

See articles elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Graham Terry

BACK OFFICE NEWS by Gary Deaton

First, thanks to everyone for helping make my first month as enjoyable as it has been and for the positive feedback on the first newsletter. As I said last month I want to make this a monthly newsletter but I will need articles from you otherwise you will have to put up with my continued rambling.

Speaking of monthly, you may have noticed that this month's Newsletter is entitled March! The Newsletter is still monthly however, as it is being printed at the end of the month, I thought it more accurate to change the title. So this year we will have 12 Newsletters but no February!!

Buckle Up. This could be a Bumpy Ride.

On Thursday nights a play bridge with Wendy. Have done for many years and we get along great. Over that time we have had patches of brilliance amongst a vast ocean of mediocrity. Well, from a Thursday Night point of view anyway. Wendy describes our bridge as 'Bikini' bridge – all tops and bottoms. I liken it more to riding the old Mad Mouse at Luna Park. But we have fun. Last Thursday night was no different to any other night. I sat down; said hello to everyone; checked to see that my seatbelt was tightly fastened and WHEEEEEEEEEEE..... away we go. Playing bridge with your partner is much like driving a car. At any one time, one person is driving and one is the passenger. Of course you swap over regularly so that you both have turns at being the driver. Wendy and I...well...we both like to drive, and of course with two people trying to drive the car at the same time accidents will happen. That's OK. "Sorry Pard, my hand looked better before I put it

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down". Of course, this doesn't worry Wendy. In all the years we've played together, she has had the EXACT same response to every hand that I have ever put down. She smiles and says "Thank You Partner, Lovely hand." Sometimes I have the misfortune of having to put down the biggest pile of 'you know what' you have ever seen. In those cases, with other partners, I try not to make eye contact.

'Look at the Ground'.

'Shuffle your feet'.

'Try to pretend that they aren't your cards'

With Wendy it doesn't matter. "Thank You Partner, Lovely hand."

So, this is the last week of the Lyndoch Lavender Farm Pairs. Jill and Evan have been playing and sponsoring bridge at SABA for a long time so it would be nice to do well. Sadly, a nice score in the low 60's last week was never going to make up for the couple of middle 40s we had in the 1st two weeks. Oh well, never mind. WHEEEEEEEEEEEEE off we go again. But Bridge can be a funny game. We have had a reasonable night. The rollercoaster was pretty tame tonight. We get to the last table of the night, which happens to be a pair that were leading the event.

"How are you guys going" I ask.

"Terrible; we can't seem to do anything right".

Of course, I smiled sympathetically and commented that some nights are like that, secretly hoping that their misfortune continued for 4 more boards.

2010 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

2010 Annual Subscriptions are due, and should be paid by March 15th. They are: Full membership \$55, Pensioner and country membership \$35. A reduction of \$17, the total of the ABF & SABF levies, will be given where the player's home club is other than SABA

On the first hand my partner opens 1NT, South doubles (penalties), I PASS, which my partner alerts. We are playing 'Swine' and my pass forces

partner to redouble which Wendy did. South now has some doubts about their original double and bids 2 spades, all pass. Unfortunately, south took my partner to have all the points and guessed the trump suit incorrectly for 1 off. (70% to the good guys). On the next board Wendy opens a club, I bid a heart and we end up in 3NT. North doubles which asks his partner to lead a heart. On a heart lead 3NT makes 10 tricks doubled for 950. Of the 7 tables in our section 5 pairs bid to 6 clubs for either 1370 or 1390 depending on the lead. The double of the 3NT would give NS a better score. This is known as a Striped-tail ape double. (described as "A double of a laydown contract made in hope of dissuading the opponents from successfully bidding to a higher, more rewarding contract"). Sounds downright nasty to me. Sadly, for our unlucky opponents South "rescued" partner with a bid of 4S which was Doubled for 1400 snatching a bottom from what was about to be an outright top (90% to the good guys). There was one other score of 1400 for 3NTXX making 10 tricks. No, it doesn't seem to be their night. On the next board they bid and made 3S for 140. That horrible little Deep Finesse says you can only make 2S. Someone should have told the rest of the field because EVERYBODY else made 10 tricks (93% to the good guys). OUCH. Sadly, our frustrated opponents bid to game on the last hand where everyone else stopped in 3S. (A meagre 8% to the goodies). And what happened to our unfortunate opponents...they ran 2nd overall and lost the event by 2%. I guess some days you're better off staying in bed. I can't wait till next week when I once again sit down with Wendy...WHEEEEEEEEEEEEE

How much exercise?

A doctor, concerned about the physical condition of one of his bridge-playing patients, during a regular check-up asked,

"Do you get much exercise?"

"Only when I sit East-West," was the reply.

There is No Such Thing as a Free Lunch?

Before I explain, let me quote a few facts. Last year the club made a small profit for the year with

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the forecast of further declines in numbers and therefore revenue.

“Isn’t that your job?” I hear you ask.

Yes it is and I have a number of issues I can address that will help the club financially. But I have decided to only do the easy ones and not do anything that might make me unpopular. I enjoy being liked and I don’t want to do anything that would change that? But first I had better read my conditions of employment...#@%! It doesn’t mention anything about being popular.

Let me quote a few more facts under the heading of “FREEBIES”. The following is a list of some of the things that are free at SABA:

Coffee and Biscuits (Please don’t get angry yet. I haven’t even done anything!).

Lunch for staff members;

Lunch and Bridge at the AGM;

Christmas Drinks;

Lunch Trays; and

Advice from your partner.

Maybe these are all things that make SABA unique and members are happy that table fees may have to go up from time to time to maintain these little luxuries. But are we happy? Is it right that non-coffee drinkers have to pay for their soft drinks? Should members who don’t eat biscuits pay for those who do? Is there an equitable, cost effective answer? Maybe? Maybe Not? At least let’s discuss the issue.

We live in a User Pays society and that makes sense. Let those who use a service, pay for it. More importantly, those that don’t use the service, shouldn’t have to pay for those that do.

Let me discuss each area separately.

Christmas Drinks. Is it worth the effort to supply drinks (and here I am referring to Alcohol) during the week leading up to Christmas. For that matter, let me include all events. Our licence allows us to serve alcohol on the premises, but not sell it! Whenever alcohol is provided at Congresses, Christmas week, special events etc it must be provided free. Is it really necessary?

Staff Lunches. Most people who work know that employers don’t pay for your lunch. Should it not be the same here. User pays.

Lunch and Bridge at the AGM. Historically, lunch was provided for free at the AGM because numbers had declined to the point where the Committee had difficulty getting a quorum. Are we that superficial that only the offer of free lunch and bridge will drag us to the Bridge club for a once a year meeting?

Free Coffee and Biscuits. This is self explanatory, but probably the most sensitive of all. This has been a feature of the club for as long as I have been here. But again it needs to be included in the “User Pays” category for discussion.

Lunch Trays. Kitchen staff are here to provide sandwiches at a reasonable price and prepare and serve the lunch trays. This is an excellent service that will NOT be tampered with.

I am not about to stop any of these. These are just my thoughts and I would like your input. After all, it is your club. But at least let us make an informed decision. The kitchen runs at a loss of approximately \$22,000 per year. As I said earlier lunch trays are a great feature of the club and is a necessary expense. But when you add the “Freebies” cost of approximately \$20 000 per year we are starting to talk about a significant amount. “*But we are a Not For Profit organization!!*” “*We don’t have to make a profit*”.

True, but keeping costs down helps the club maintain funds for unforeseen expenses. \$80 000 for air-conditioning, new carpets when needed, replacement and repair of furniture, building repairs and maintenance and the list goes on. Thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer, John Roughan, the club now has an asset register. This not only lists what equipment, furniture etc that we own, but also includes an expected replacement cost and how long it should last. This register shows that \$160,000 worth of equipment and furniture will need to be replaced over the next ten years. That’s another \$16,000 we have to find each year.

So let’s recap.

Kitchen	\$22,000
Freebies	\$20,000
Asset maintenance/replacement	\$16,000

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That's \$58,000 the club needs before we even start. Just think about it while you enjoy your next cuppa and a nice bikkie.

So, what are my thoughts?

1. Stop supplying alcohol at all SABA events.
2. A \$5 surcharge for lunch and bridge at the AGM to help cover food & staff costs
3. Staff to pay for their lunch (Approved by the Committee at the January meeting)
4. Now the "Biggie". A \$1 charge for a "bottomless" cup of coffee and biscuits.
5. No change to kitchen lunch service

What other benefits will this create?

All of these potential savings are not random acts of penny pinching. They are part of an overall approach to improve the financial position of the club. These measures together with current plans to address a new member drive and increased sponsorship will all help.

My goal (which I truly believe to be achievable) is to significantly reduce the Annual Subs for 2011. I would also like to reduce table fees at some stage within the next 12 months. This will purely depend on the success or otherwise of the proposals I have mentioned.

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As I said earlier, these are just my thoughts. Members will have an opportunity to voice their opinion in the Member Survey that should be ready in March. At least you now have all the facts. I am also in the office most days during session

times, so by all means drop in and let me know what you think. Please leave all rocks and blunt objects at the door. Oh, and by the way, I can't do much about the free advice from partner.

A post mortem as enjoyed by most married bridge partners



"You know why I'm livid! You went to bed with an ace!"



What are the Odds of that?

So, you think you never get any cards? Here are some of

the more common percentages.

Odds

Opening Hand 12+ points	35%
Not enough points to respond <6	9%
19+ points	2.50%
8-11 points	36%

Last month, in this section, I mentioned a hand I had with my son, which contained AKQJ109875432 of one suit (clubs) and an outside ace. A number of people asked me (jokingly) what the final contract was? Don't laugh....it's not that obvious. The bidding went:
2C Strong
3C 5 controls (showing either 2 aces and a king or 1 ace and 3 kings)

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4NT Ace Ask

5H 2 Aces

7NT.

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Player Profile

Only my 2nd Newsletter and I am already deviating from my standard format. This week I would like to profile Linda Alexander. For those that don't know Linda, she is the Club's Patron Emeritus. The Patron Emeritus is a lifetime appointment and recognizes the significant involvement Linda has had with the club for more years than most of us have been members.

Linda Alexander

Linda has been the Patron for 13 years and sponsor's the Patron's Cup, which is an encouragement award for supervised players. Linda also gives an encouragement award at the Walkerville Bridge Association. Linda's involvement with the Committee goes back to the mid '70s and has held a variety of Committee appointments over the years. These include the Women's Committee, House Committee, Fundraising Committee and was the Club Secretary for 19 years. Linda also held the Treasurer's position for a number of years. Linda started playing Bridge in 1967 and now plays on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Thursday evenings. Linda also directs Tuesday nights and Saturday afternoons.

Linda joined SABA in 1971 when the Club was in Currie Street and lists her greatest Bridge achievement as coming 2nd in the Australian National Championship Pairs with Allison Fallon. When she's not playing Bridge, Linda enjoys going to the Gym and coaching.

Linda is a Crows supporter and says that if she wasn't playing Bridge, she would be bored out of her brain. [If I could, I would certainly have a few more Linda Alexanders in the Club.] From everybody at the club, thanks Linda.

'Til Death Us Do Part



Sadly, I had no articles for this section. Actually, I had very few articles for any section. Rather than just delete this section I will add something here for this month and sit in my office eagerly awaiting articles for the

next newsletter. As this was supposed to be a section about partners I thought that the following story may fall under the category of bad partners. Many people will know this story but it is a good one and worth retelling.

The annual Bermuda Bowl World Championship saw Italy and the United States playing in the 1975 final. There, American reporter Bruce Keidan would uncover one of the most infamous bridge cheating scandals ever.

While watching one of the Italian pairs, Gianfranco Facchini and Sergio Zucchelli, Keidan noticed unusual foot actions between the two. The reporter found the players tapping each other's feet under the table in an apparent attempt to relay info about their hands. Cheating is, of course, grounds for expulsion from any bridge organization. Keidan's discovery, which was confirmed by several witnesses, was eventually presented to the presiding authorities of the event, who "severely reprimanded" Facchini and Zucchelli for their activity but allowed the players to continue competing in the event. Ironically, although the Italians were allowed to stay, the Bermuda Bowl authorities placed blocks underneath the tables to prevent any further foot contact.

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Italy won the event, 215 - 189 (International Match Points). By all accounts, Facchini and Zucchelli quickly faded from the international bridge circuit thereafter.

Recent Winners - January

PAIRS WITH AN EXPERT

- 1 Rosemary Grund & Judy Jacobs
- 2 David Anderson & Delsi Pozza
- 3 Jinny Fuss & Jeff Travis

MONDAY AM JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Ted Clarke & Gwenneth Miller
- 2 Patricia Grant & Margaret Stevens
- 3 Wendy Andrews & Jim May

MONDAY AM JANUARY PAIRS - HCP

- 1 Ted Clarke & Gwenneth Miller
- 2 Claire Geller & Bob Setton
- 3 Betty Eddy & Marg Trotter

MONDAY SUPERVISED WALK-IN PAIRS

- 1 Aggie & Ken Bampton
- 2 Ray Fletcher & Jan Ignatius
- 3 David & Jean White

TUESDAY AM JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Brenda Bradley & Ann Currie
- 2 Brian Dohnt & Alan Lindley
- 3 Carmel & Norman Thompson

TUESDAY EVENING JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Chris Barnwell & Geraldine Sladden
- 2 Bob Auld & Fred Molenaar
- 3 Rosemary Grund & Adrienne Kelly

TUESDAY EVENING JANUARY SUPERVISED

- 1 Nicolas Daniels & Jan Martin
- 2 Chiara Lloyd & Fiona Sage
- 3 Jill Schuster & Jayne Taylor

KEITH MCNEIL PAIRS

- 1 Marie Wait & Mary Wildy
- 2 Denise Buttrose & Graham Terry
- 3 Bronny Colmer & Jackie Ward

WEDNESDAY NIGHT JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Ron Lambert & Sandy Leach
- 2 Julie Corrigan & Carolyn Daniels
- 3 Barbara & Lindon Wing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT JANUARY PAIRS - HCP

- 1 Julie Corrigan & Carolyn Daniels
- 2 Jessie De Garis & Sam Thorpe
- 3 Barbara & Lindon Wing

THURSDAY AM JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Des Geary & Susan Havey
- 2 Mae Ewens & Jean Mansfield
- 3 Helen Kite & Phyl Turner

THURSDAY AM JANUARY PAIRS - HCP

- 1 Elva Verrall & Fenella White
- 2 Mary Dicker & Willette Sach
- 3 Norma Amey & Fay Goudie

LYNDOCH LAVENDER FARM PAIRS

- 1 Roger Januszke & John Zollo

- 2 Andrew Hill & David Shilling

- 3 Peter Colmer & Susan Phillips

FRIDAY AM JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Robin Cooke & Geoffrey Hannaford

- 2 Margaret Choate & Warren Neill

- 3 Judy Hone & Jim May

FRIDAY AM JANUARY PAIRS - HCP

- 1 Sandra Clift & Gwenda Ransom

- 2 Robin Cooke & Geoffrey Hannaford

- 3 Robyn Duncan & Jerry Taylor

FRIDAY EVENING JANUARY PAIRS

- 1 Gary Deaton & Andrew Eddie

- 2 Attilio De Luca & Susan Emerson

- 3 Sonia Bromley & Patricia Pak Poy

FRIDAY EVENING JANUARY PAIRS - HCP

- 1 Kevin Sloan & Jeanette Stacy

- 2 Jean Cook & Eileen Moody

- 3 Sonia Bromley & Patricia Pak Poy

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WALK-IN PAIRS

- 1 Gizella Mickevics & Rita Sziller

- 2 Andrew Eddie & Roger Williams

- 3 Jean Suggitt & Graham Terry

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SUPERVISED

- 1 David & Jean White

- 2 David & Stella Hurst

- 3 Chiara Lloyd & Fiona Sage

PRESIDENT'S PAIRS

- 1 Paul Hudson & John Zollo

- 2 Jim Burke & Colin Twelftree

- 3 Anne Harris & Pam Morgan-King

2010 WOMEN'S/SENIORS TRIALS QUALIFYING

- 1 Arthur Davies & David Shilling

- 2 Wendy Andrews & Susan Phillips

- 3 Linda Alexander & Dianne Marler

What's Cooking?

The kitchen staff have requested that players refrain from putting rubbish inside their coffee or tea cups. Please help the kitchen staff out and use the bins for things like tissues, serviettes etc.

Tongs have also been placed in the Biscuit Container. Please use them rather than wading through the container with your hands.

Thank You

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But will he Remember my Name? The Final Word!!

This story just gets worse and worse. Earlier this month one of the players had to leave early and there was still one round to go. No problems, I can handle that. I go out, say hi, and we are just chatting prior to the last round being called. South asks me how I am going with remembering people's names. (At least I know someone has read the Newsletter ...great.) "Getting better, but still not good" I reply. "Oh well, no worries. Of course, you know who I am though, don't you"? South asks. (This is a dream, right? Please let me wake up soon) "I'm sorry" I reply in my most apologetic voice. "I'm Joan Tallis".....Alarm Bells are getting louder. "Sorry, Joan, your name is familiar, but I'm not sure why"

"I'm the person from the AGM who asked if you will remember our names"!!!
Sorry Joan, but rest assured you have now made a lasting impression. You are sure to be the one person in the club I can guarantee to remember your name from now on. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Coming Events

Here are some things to put in your diary.

State Mens/Womens/Restricted Pairs

commence on Monday evenings from the 15th March.

NOTE: This event was originally advertised as a 7pm start but will be commencing at our normal time of 7.30pm.

Rio Clarke Pairs: Tuesday mornings starting 2nd March. This is a sponsored event and carries additional prizemoney.

Kath George Pairs: Alternate Wednesday days from February 10th, continuing through March.

Reg Gooley Pairs: Wednesday nights in March.

SABA GNOT Qualifying (GOLD): Thursday nights commencing 25th March.

Zonta Congress: This is a Charity event run at the SABA clubrooms for Zonta International and will be held on Sunday, 14th March. Entry forms are available in the Club or contact me for further details.

Pleasant Sunday: Sunday 21st March.

Pleasant Sundays are one of the more fun events that the Fundraising Committee organise. Pleasant Sundays are exactly that. It is not a congress, but just a fun afternoon of Bridge with prizes and raffles. All money raised goes directly back into projects for the club. I would encourage as many members as possible to attend at least one pleasant Sunday a year. (You

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will also feel less guilty when I ask for volunteers for club working bees!!).



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Bridge Club Sponsors

We currently have a number of businesses who advertise in the Newsletter, sponsor the printing of the bidding pads and support the club in a number of ways. They are all in the current newsletter but I suspect most people, myself included, tend to skip past the ads and go straight to the next article. All of our current sponsors have an affiliation with the bridge club in one form or another, but what do they get for their money? I have spoken to a number of existing sponsors to see if we can do better by them and also improve the services available to members. Jill and Evan Allanson from the Lyndoch Lavender Farm have offered to provide a range of products at a discounted price of 25% off to members. A product list and pricing sheet is displayed on the Sponsor's Notice Board next to the office. The club is also now an agent for the Bridge shop. A range of products have arrived and these are also displayed on the Notice Board. Not only are the prices heavily discounted but members ordering through the Club also save on Postage and Handling costs. Orders can be

placed with me for all items from either the Bridge Shop or the Lyndoch Lavender Farm. I also spoke to Joe Haffer on this topic and he came back to me the very next week with an excellent offer for Club members. Joe is offering members \$1000 off a roof replacement. Joe will also donate \$200 to the fundraising committee for each member that takes up this offer. This includes friends of members who are recommended to Joe through a club member. This offer is only available until the end of March and is restricted to the 1st seven customers. Joe's team will provide expert advice and they provide a unique house inspection, both inside and out and deliver a 47 point inspection report. Of course, Joe is also happy to assist with all other roofing and guttering needs so keep him in mind should you need assistance in these areas. Unlike his competitors, Joe has his own employees and doesn't use sub-contractors to do the work.

For those who don't know Joe he is one of the club's elite players and has represented the State on many occasions. Joe has also been a regular supporter of "Pairs with an Expert" and is always happy to discuss bridge with fellow members. Joe actually started in the Roofing and Guttering business after a suggestion from David Anderson and our Club was one of Joe's first customers almost 20 years ago. Since then Haffer Roofing has grown to be the largest domestic roofing company in SA. For more info contact Leslie at Joe's office on 7123 3266 or email her at

roofing@haffer.com.au

Membership Target



One of the things I would like to do whilst I am Club Manager is to increase the membership of the

Club. A number of years ago we had nearly 1000 members compared to last year's figure of 730. The committee is allowing for a further decline in 2010 of 2.5% (another 18 members lost). My goal

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is to grow the membership this year by that same amount, giving me a target of approximately 750. I will keep you informed in future newsletters of how we are going.

For our first term of lessons we offered members a free playing voucher for each person they recommended who came to the classes AND a further FOUR free playing vouchers if they became members. The students were also offered a discount if they attended through a member's recommendation. This will continue for Terms 2 through 4. So if you have friends who may like to learn bridge we can offer great deals on the classes and you get a month or so of free bridge! Term 2 classes commence on Monday morning, 10th May and Tuesday evening 11th May.

New Members

SABA would like to welcome the following new members to the Club.

Joy Brooks	Elsbeth Doman
Wendy Holloway	Jenny Kernbach
Ros Durant	Judy Harrison
Neville Harrison	Chiara Lloyd
Nikki Mortier	Jillian O'Dea
Fiona Sage	Jack Schocroft
Bee Siemionow	Elizabeth Tolley
Rhonda Wallace	Sara Waylen
Bob Wharton	David White
Jean White	Carolyn Collins
Judy Jacobs	Edward Young
Penny Bowen	Brian Croft
Sandy Buick	Terry Buick
Peter Sandercock	Noel Farnan
Liz Robertson	Sue Hapek
Gaddi Daniel	Grant Gotley
Reg Bennett	Dierdre Williams
Jayne Taylor	Marg McColl
Wendy Adams	Beverley Baker
Stephen Baker	Claire Cowell
Margaret Forgan	Rosie Vostatek
Jill Schuster	

Grand National Pairs National Final in Canberra - January 2010

Article by John Johnson

Some readers will be unaware that the ABF conducts a competition which is restricted to players who have **not** achieved LIFE MASTER status on 1st January of the New Year. This competition is the Grand National Pairs (GNP). Across Australia, qualifying rounds are held throughout the year to determine which players should compete in the regional finals which are held in the last quarter of the year. The players who finish at or near the top of the regional finals are invited to represent their regions in the National Final which is held in Canberra in January of the following year.

Tony Hind and I have just returned from Canberra after having enjoyed two full days of bridge which formed the GNP National Final. South Australia was represented by four pairs including our long time friendly rivals from SABA, Peter Tuebner and Neil Welch. The SABF, under the guidance of the President, Di Marler, provided funding for the airfares so the only costs to the players were for accommodation and meals. Tony and I found the Hyatt Hotel a superb place to stay. The tariff included a magnificent buffet breakfast which cost other guests \$39 a head. The competition organisers arranged transportation between hotels and the competition venue, so that participants arrived at the National Convention Centre with plenty of time to catch up with other players before the start of play.

At the end of the first day of play (two sessions), Tony and I finished with results that suggested we should pull up our socks. At the end of the morning play on day two, we were very pleasantly surprised to find ourselves at the top of the list of 57 N/S pairs for that session. This gave us a big psychological boost for the final session, at the end of which we finished in the top quarter of the field.

At the end of the competition, the top three placegetters came from Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra, respectively.

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I would like to draw your attention to two hands from the final session which had interesting outcomes. Tony was West and I was East.

The first was Hand 26. I opened 1C and Tony responded 1D. My RH opponent bid 2S and my double was passed out. I clearly expected the contract to go down, but I did not expect the opposition to make only two tricks for a penalty of 1700.

After my lead of AD followed by 6D, the play was interesting because the **declarer made his two tricks with the KH and QS**. The detail of the play is shown below.

26	♠ KQ8542	Dir: E
	♥ J105	Vul: Both
	♦ 83	
	♣ 87	
♠ J97	♠ A1063	
♥ Q962	♥ A7	
♦ KJ754	♥ A6	
♣ 2	♣ AQ1063	
	♣ 87	
6	♠ K843	♣♦♥♠NT
7 18	♥ Q1092	N - - - - -
9	♣ KJ954	S - - - - -
		E 3 3 3 4 3
		W 2 3 3 3 3

Session 4 Hand 26

E	S	W	N
1C	P	1D	2S
X	P	P	P

Underlined card indicates the lead. **Bold card** indicates the winner.

E	S	W	N
<u>AD</u>	2D	4D	3D
<u>6D</u>	QD	KD	8D
3S	9D	<u>5D</u>	2S
<u>AH</u>	3H	2H	5H
<u>7H</u>	KH	6H	10H
6S	<u>10D</u>	JD	4S
AC	4C	2C	7C
<u>3C</u>	KC	7S	8C
AS	5C	<u>7D</u>	KS
<u>6C</u>	9C	9S	QS
10C	4H	QH	<u>JH</u>

For all the latest results don't forget to visit our Website at <http://www.saba.asn.au/>

10S	8H	<u>9H</u>	8S
<u>QC</u>	JC	JS	5S

[Ed Note. Yes, North should make more tricks, but sometimes it's just nice to be on the receiving end of a good score]

Hand 15 was the last hand that we played in the competition. After I opened a strong 2C, we finished up in 7D.

15	♠ 932	Dir: S
	♥ KQ652	Vul: N-S
	♦ 1075	
	♣ Q8	
♠ KQJ7	♠ A84	
♥ J83	♥	
♦ 2	♦ AKQ643	
♣ K7432	♣ AJ106	
	♠ 1065	♣♦♥♠NT
7	♥ A10974	N - - - - -
10 18	♦ J98	S - - - - -
5	♣ 95	E 7 7 - 7 2
		W 7 7 - 7 2

After trumping the AH lead, I cleared trumps and played out the spades. Success depends on the location of QC. I played AC and I followed this with JC and let this run when LHO played a low club. Disaster! One down and much disappointment since the QC would have dropped had I played the KC. The score sheet for the hand showed that only one pair had bid and made 7D. There must be a lesson here.

[Editor Note. These holdings can cause grief. The best way to play this hand is to lead toward the KC. This caters for N holding Q985 or singleton QC]

Incidentally, our opposition for this hand were Peter and Neil.

Overall, I found playing in this competition most enjoyable. The opposition was in the main of a similar standard to ourselves; so we didn't find ourselves looking down the barrel all the time. Unfortunately I will not qualify to enter this year's competition, but in the light of our experience, I strongly recommend your involvement in the GNP competition in 2010 if your ranking is below LIFE MASTER. There may be an interesting trip to Canberra at the end of it.

[Editor - If a trip to Canberra takes your fancy, qualifying for next year's Grand National Pairs

SABA NEWS MARCH 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INC.

(Restricted to members BELOW Life Master)

commences on the following dates:

Monday AM – 7th June

Wednesday PM – 4th August

Thursday AM – 1st April

Friday AM – 7th May

Check the Club program for full details.]

Personalised Name Tags

The Club has organized personalized name tags for those that would like to go a little 'up market' from the standard name tags. Examples are shown here:



OR



An actual example, together with an order sheet is on the notice board on the Northern wall near the office. A minimum order quantity of 50 applies but once we get sufficient numbers I will order them. Don't leave it until the last minute, as once the order goes in any new orders will have to wait until we get a further 50 names.

Fundraising Corner

Trading Table

The Fund raising committee will have a Trading Table from Tuesday 16th March to Monday 22nd. Please help make this a success by providing Cakes, Jam, plants, books, and all household items in good order. As stated earlier, all money raised will help towards the upgrade of the Annex.

Silent Auction

A signed Crows football has been donated for the Trading Table and can be viewed in the Trophy Cupboard near the office. The football has been signed by all players in the 2005? Team and will be

sold by Silent Auction. A Bidding Sheet will be left on the Trading Table and the highest bid by the end of the Monday night session (22nd March) gets the footie.

Sponsor's Table

See earlier article on the range of products now available for purchase.

Pleasant Sunday – 21st March

See page 7 for details

Display Cupboard Wanted

The FR committee is looking for an old display unit to be able to house the Bridge shop products and other FR sale items. If anyone has one gathering dust in the shed, we will gladly come and get it.

Annex redesign

The club is looking for anyone with interior design experience to assist in planning the refurbishment of the Annex.

Any suggestions from members about what you would like to see out there are also welcome.

Social News

Tuesday Nights. A group of Tuesday night players meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month for dinner at a different location each month. Details are: Arrive from 5.30pm, order by 6pm, served by 6.30pm and playing Bridge an hour later. Contact John Smith for further details.

Friday Nights. Bring a plate and something to drink and join the group in the front lounge after the Friday night session. ALL welcome.

If there are any other groups that meet before or after Bridge, let me know and I'll include the details in the next Newsletter.

Articles for the next Newsletter

Has it already come to bribery.....I guess so. The best article submitted for next month's Newsletter will get a free playing voucher. This shouldn't be too hard. After all, I only had one

For all the latest results don't forget to visit our Website at <http://www.saba.asn.au/>

SABA NEWS MARCH 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION INC.

submission published this month. Thanks John,
free Voucher on its way.

HAPPY BRIDGING ☺