



# Darling Downs Bridge Club

## Newsletter Autumn 2017

**Welcome to your first Newsletter for 2017. As we embrace a new Bridge Year we also welcome our new President, Floyd Wilson, our new Vice President, Jeff Aitchison, and a new Management Committee made up of a great mix of members.**



### President's Welcome

At the recent Annual General Meeting, held on Monday 13 Feb 2017, members attending voted in a new management committee as following:

President:	Floyd Wilson
Vice President:	Jeff Aitchison
Secretary:	Juleen Cavanaugh
Treasurer:	Jane Lindenburg
Committee Members:	Michael Doherty (Immediate Past President)

Glenda Downie, Ian Jesser, Anne Kirkpatrick, Barbara Wippell, Majella Wilson

I feel greatly honoured to be elected president of this club and only hope that I am able to live up to the expectations of members.

Sincere thanks go to the immediate past president, Michael Doherty, and all of the outgoing members of the management committee. I believe the club is in particularly good shape and this is attributable to the leadership shown by Michael, the work carried out by the committee members and most of all by the wonderful work that is carried out by the many volunteers on an on-going basis. The club has a great reputation for friendliness and sociability. My aim is to continue upholding that reputation. Over the coming weeks your committee will be looking to find people who are willing to take on the many roles fulfilled by volunteers so that the workload is shared and therefore does not become onerous for any individual.

There are, of course, always issues that need to be resolved and decisions to be made relating to the smooth running of the club. I look forward to working with the newly elected committee members to work through any such issues. Any concerns you have should be directed to a committee member so that they can be addressed.

The new committee has had its first meeting and attended to a number of issues, including matters referred to the management committee from the AGM. The first of these was the issue of catering and easing the workload on the providers of this service. In keeping with the recommendation of the AGM, the committee resolved that catering would be simplified by limiting foodstuffs at regular club events to sandwiches and biscuits/bun loaves only on Mondays, and biscuits/bun loaves only on Fridays. Special days will still be catered for in our usual outstanding manner.

**Floyd Wilson (President)**

*A note to those who want to play inspirational Bridge: When you have a moment, don't forget to check out the Library. There are some great Bridge books available, with lots of up-to-date material. Books can be borrowed for 1 month.*

#### Special points of interest

Management Committee 2017

Thanks to Michael and Outgoing Committee and volunteers

Committee here to help with any concerns

Results: Catering motion referred from AGM

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## Additional Positions for 2017

**Congress Convenor** Majella Wilson  
**Masterpoint Secretary** Carmel Caton  
**Publicity Officer** Jeff Aitchison  
**Zone Representative** Rosemary Kelley  
**Membership Secretary** Jeff Aitchison

**Chief Director** Neville O'Connor  
**Office Manager** Sue Crooke

**Catering Coordinator** Jeff Aitchison  
**House Maintenance** Neville Lutton  
**Librarian** Lesley Meyers

**Floral Director** Jan McIlwraith  
*Editor for Autumn Newsletter Jan FitzGerald*

### Bridge Topics of Interest

#### **\*\*ALERTING STAYMAN BIDS\*\***

**A response of 2clubs after a 1NT opening bid is not alertable in an uncontested auction, no matter what the meaning.**

**However, normal alerting rules do apply if (a) the opponents have entered the auction or (b) Stayman or similar is used in any other sequence eg following a 2NT bid.**

#### **\*\*SLOW PLAY\*\***

**If the warning bell has sounded and the first card has not been played on a board, that board needs to be averaged. The Director will make a decision on what percentage to award to each side, depending on the responsibility for slow play.**

## Masterpoint Secretary's Report to 2017 AGM

2016 was a successful year in masterpoint terms. Thanks to great attendances and a bit of good fortune our green point tally was such that we qualified for an additional red point session. In 2017 there will be 14 sessions compared to 13 in 2016.

The good fortune for the Club, if not for the RAS, was the cancellation of the Mining Expo which meant that we had an extra 4 sessions of play compared to previous years. It's a simple equation – the more we play and the more of us who play, the higher our green point tally and the more red point sessions we are awarded.

Support for both the Monday and Friday sessions has grown over the course of the year which is great to see. It is not uncommon to have 18 + tables on a Monday and 12+ on a Friday. The full complement of 20 tables was achieved for some of our competition days. It is wonderful to see this level of interest and support. We have spare tables that can be set up, if need be, should our numbers continue to grow.

As you know I seed the field for these special days. It does really help if I know that you will be playing even if you don't want to formally enter the competition. Everyone who plays has an effect on the balancing of the field. If you are formally competing you need to lodge your entry by the due date; if you are just coming out to play still let me know even if it is the night before or early that morning so that I can factor you into the layout.

Thank you for your support and Happy Bridging in 2017. **Carmel Caton (Masterpoint Secretary)**

## FROM TREASURER JANE

We had another successful year for the Darling Downs Bridge Club and this is reflected in the Financial Reports. A healthy surplus of over 16 thousand dollars has increased our equity to over 150 thousand dollars. Most of this is held in Term Deposits. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Club in any way and my special thanks to those who have helped me and continue to do so. It makes it easy for me to accept another term as Treasurer.

A copy of the Auditor's Report is available and if anyone has questions about our finances, please contact me.

I would very much appreciate if players would refrain from using \$50 notes to pay their \$5 table fee. If you find you only have a \$50 note please try to see me before we start collecting.

Annual Subscriptions were due by 28<sup>th</sup> February. If you have not paid your \$20 or \$50 sub, please do so as soon as possible. March is when we start chasing up overdue payments.

**Jane Lindenberg (Treasurer)**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM 2017

The New Year is well under way and I take this opportunity to welcome new members, who have joined the Club during the past year. It is important that new players are introduced, so that numbers are maintained. There are always members who leave the Club for various reasons, with others becoming inactive, resulting from those names being removed from the membership list.

The financial position of the Club is in a healthy state, under the guidance of Jane Lindenberg, as will be obvious in the Treasurer's Report. Repairs and maintenance throughout the year have been minimal, but there always must be financial accommodation in the event of a major expense.

We have enjoyed the support of our Sponsors: Mobile Travel Agency, Dornbusch Partners, McGrath Real Estate and Don Zeisner for his handcrafted bracelet. The support from Wendy Allen, of Mobile Travel Agency, has been more than generous, with the donation of accommodation in Brisbane, two nights accommodation at Spicer's Peak Resort, two tickets to the Empire Theatre, and numerous gifts to be raffled. She has also been able to introduce Toby Sandel to us, from McGrath Real Estate. The capable ability of Desley and Rhondda to conduct the various raffles, provided proceeds to be distributed to "Bridge for Brains", \$915, Toowoomba Hospice, \$2,500, and the Salvation Army, \$1,720, to be used for Christmas gifts for local children. I thank you for your support of these most worthy Charities and I think the donations have been outstanding.

We have enjoyed another address from Ian, who is always most informative and also the ever-popular, Joan Butts.

Byron Longford offered himself to discuss the hands after Friday's play.

*In conjunction with the Tournament Committee, the rules for competitive events have been clarified. Nominations must be received by the advised time and date, for players to be eligible for the competition. Non-nominated members may still play, as long as they are present five minutes before the designated time of play, but will not be part of the competition. Directors now have the discretion to refuse late arrivals, unless there has been previous notification. This will allow the Director time to decide the movement.*

*If there is concern over a result, advise the Director, who, along with two others, will adjudicate the hand at the end of play; do not consult the computer operator.*

The procedure for behavioral conduct will be discussed with the new Committee. At this stage, if you feel you have been victimized, please write to the Secretary and the matter must, and will be, addressed. There have been other minor additions, such as ordering 4 new bridgemates, for the occasional "full house", Sue solving the problem of the buttons being stuck, the coffee and tea trial, Leonie donating a Director's Pack and another disability sign, organised by Neville.

Without the help of the many members contribution to the success of play, the session, the Club could not function. Juleen and Neville arrive every second Thursday, along with Lesley Meyer, to deal the boards completely up to date. This provides certainty that there are always boards available. The cards are constantly checked to maintain a high standard of cleanliness. Everyone who contributes works on an honorary basis.

Congratulations to the "Honor Board" event winners and to Leonie who has passed her Director's Exams and is directing very professionally.

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**Dates to remember for this year (2017)**

**DDBC Novice**

**Congress:**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**DDBC Swiss Pairs**

**Congress:**

**Sunday 30<sup>st</sup> July.**

**SYSTEMS CARDS**

All players should try to have a System Card on the table every time they play and not only when they are playing in a congress.

It is important to realize that opponents are entitled to know exactly what bids mean and intend. It is also a great help if partners check their system cards before play and know what they are playing!

Everything is open in bridge and there should not be any unauthorized information by way of misleading bidding, hesitations, full stops, body language, change of pace in bidding, throwing down pencils, etc.

**Tournament Committee Report for 2016**

The members of this committee are the directors, the master point secretary, and the congress convenor. We welcomed two new directors this year, Gabrielle Erlich and Leonie Spence.

We have had four meetings for 2016. At the first meeting in March, Gillian Whitehouse was confirmed as chairperson and John Hede as secretary. We have discussed various topics at the meetings this year including the movements for our Bridge days. The suggestion that the directors should obtain the book of movements that the Toowoomba bridge club has, is being followed.

The learning of the computer programme by the directors is still a work in progress. We thank Sue Croke, Richard Newman and Patricia Proud for running the computer programme for the club sessions.

The preparation of the boards has been overseen by Brian Wippell and we thank him and his helpers for his work.

*In the managing of disputes with a director during play, an appeal should be made formally, and this will be discussed at the end of play with 2 or 3 directors or senior players. The final decision could involve an adjusted score.* During the year we have had problems with fouled boards, but with the members help, we have almost corrected this.

We have run two successful congresses this year and our thanks go to Majella Wilson for her very efficient management. We are hoping for a 2day teams event in 2018. The novice congress for 2017 has been moved to June 4<sup>th</sup> so Chris Snook can direct.

Barbara Wippell with Floyd Wilson's help has produced the Programme book for 2017 and it is available for members. We hope all of you will take one.

I wish to thank all the directors and the master point secretary, and the computer operators for all their hard work during the year and to wish all members a happy 2017 and successful, pleasant bridging.

*Gillian Whitehouse (Chair)*

***President's Report AGM, 2017. (Cont from Page 3)***

**Lastly, I would like to thank all members of the Committee, who have fulfilled their responsibilities with efficiency. Every member has contributed willingly and wholeheartedly. Also, thanks to the many others who work towards the continuing success of the Club: Sue and Richard in the office, both of whom have solved problems at their homes, along with others in the office, the directors, house maintenance, the catering groups who provide quality afternoon teas, those organising the raffles, bring and buy, and others.**

**My time as President has come to an end. I have taken great joy from the Club and thank all members for their support and friendship, with my best wishes going to the new Committee and the continuing success of the Club. Michael Doherty (Outgoing President) 13.02.2017.**

**Have you ever noticed that a woman's, "I'll be ready in 5 minutes", and a man's, "I'll be home in 5 Minutes", means exactly the same thing? The Bridge Director's, "Don't be 5 minutes late", however, is something that should be interpreted entirely differently!**

## Darling Downs Bridge Club's Congress Report for 2016

Our club once again ran two congresses for 2016.

The numbers for this year's Novice congress were very disappointing with only 17½ tables. In particular, the lack of support given by those eligible from this club was notable. We have 79 home members and of those 61 are novices. Only 15 attended the congress. Also of note was that only two pairs from Dalby attended and none from Warwick.

We had a few hiccups with the initial entries and one was lost in the ether somewhere resulting in one pair arriving with a confirmed entry that I had not received. Chris was able to run the session with a sit-out and those players were compensated with a "free game" and a win for the round.

On a more positive side, the event ran smoothly once all the above problem was sorted. Thanks to Rhonda and Desley and all their helpers for providing the lunch and keeping up the supply of food during the day.

Chris and Shelly Farr from Stanthorpe won the overall prize and also were the Highest Performers with fewer than 50 masterpoints. Congratulations to both of them.

Our Swiss Pairs Congress held on the 31<sup>st</sup> July saw 46 pairs compete in the competition. This was a very successful day and our thanks goes to all those who contributed to the smooth running of the event. The overall winners were Adrian Mayers and Byron Longford. Congratulation to them and all the winners of the day.

For those who have very little idea what expenses are incurred in running a congress and sometimes ask why you have to pay an entry fee of \$35 I have included some of the expenditure common to both congresses. Director's fees, Board dealing, QBA Fee, ABF Red points, Food, Prize money, Electricity, Rent, Wine, and photocopying. After these are deducted from the entry fee it is often difficult to break even on the day.

Thank you to our director, Chris Snook who, as always, does a very professional job and seems to be on top of any problems that arise throughout the day. Many thanks to the caddies who assisted at both congresses.

Our sponsors play a vital part in making our club a success and a very special thank you goes to Dornbush Partners who made a generous donation towards the prize money for our congress, Joan Butts who donated four of her books to be awarded as encouragement prizes, Toby Sandell from McGrath Estate Agents for his donation of the beautiful hamper for the raffle, and our very generous sponsor Wendy Allen from Mobile Travel Agents who not only supports our congresses but is there throughout the year with her many generous contributions.

A very special thank you to Barbara and her very capable team of helpers who as always provide an excellent lunch for the congresses and manage to keep up a great supply of nibbles throughout the day.

Both our President and our Vice President were absent for the Swiss Pairs and so Juleen stood in and did a great job presenting the prizes. Thank you. For those interested, photographs of these events are displayed on our web page – just click on "Photos".

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**BRIDGE FOR DUMMIES: Dummy should not play a card until Declarer has called for it.** This applies even when the card to play is obvious, ie a singleton in the suit led. Dummy should only touch the cards when playing a card nominated by the Declarer, or to reorganize them – but not to fill a space created by a suit void. **Dummy can attempt to stop Declarer committing an infraction,** but cannot be the first to call attention to an infraction once it is committed. The infraction has then occurred and it is not Dummy's place to rectify it.

### Catering Report AGM 2017

At the 2016 AGM no one nominated for the position of Provider. I was not prepared to continue in that position because of the amount of time involved in food preparation. I volunteered to coordinate the buying of the general kitchen supplies provided that others took on the food preparation. I very sincerely thank Pauline, Carmel, Joyce and Rhondda for forming a catering committee with me to facilitate this. The result was that on Mondays pairs took on the task of providing the much loved sandwiches and sweets for which the club has become well known. They agreed to provide the food on a specific Monday each month and to find a substitute if required. I thank Carmel, Joyce, Mearon, Edwina, Pauline, Jan S, Judy, Roy, Jan Mc, Toni and Susie for their dedication. I would also like to thank Lorraine and Jan F for filling in and to any of you who donated food during the year.

Each pair received \$50

reimbursement for their ingredients which was quite often insufficient and meant that unless they had kept their dockets, as the treasurer requires for any reimbursement, they were effectively donating the extra.

I managed Fridays with the help of Carmel and Majella with the club purchasing bun loaves and biscuits and with the occasional donations from members. I make special mention of Judy G who arrives with the very popular cheese biscuits every few weeks.

Rhondda & Desley and their helpers organised the food for the Novice Congress and Carmel and Pauline the Swiss Pairs - both of which were very well received by those playing. Thank you to you all.

If the club is to continue providing the afternoon tea, *NOT LUNCH*, that it provides I feel that there will have to be a much bigger commitment from more members. I wish you all a very happy Bridge year.

Barbara Wippell

### **Congress Report for 2016 (Continued from Page 5)**

We will be holding two congresses this year, the Novice on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and the Swiss Pairs on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Please include these dates in your diaries. I implore all eligible novices to give consideration to playing on the 4<sup>th</sup> June – you may be pleasantly surprised how much you enjoy the competition. And lastly, is anyone prepared to put up their hand to be the Congress Convenor?. It's not that hard and you can be assured that you will get a great deal of support from the committee. Think about it, if not this year how about next year.

**Majella Wilson** (Congress Convenor)



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