

Ballina Bridge Club

Swiss Cross-IMP Pairs and Teams

16 — 17 March 2019 (Sat — Sun)



Something New

by Marjorie Askew

Ballina welcomed visitors from as far away as Deniliquin and Hawks Nest, as well as from the Northern Rivers and Gold Coast areas, to their Congress over the weekend of March 16 & 17.

Saturday's event was Swiss Cross Imp Pairs and Sunday's event Swiss Teams.

This year we tried 2 new things:

The Schedule:

16 March (Sat)

Swiss Cross-IMP Pairs

9.30am — 5.00pm

17 March (Sun)

Teams

9.30am — 5.00pm

1. We awarded equal prize money per each Grade/Division – Why?

Everyone pays the same entry fee so surely this is more equitable?

Our field size is relatively small so not big enough for a 'Graded' event with Swiss format. Instead we divide the field into 3 Divisions/Grades – as equal in number as possible. Furthermore, in previous years we have often found we have a B or C pair/team placing in a higher Division; this in turn meant more B/C winners than A's who can only place in one Division; and possible confusion for example of whether the B runner-up prize would be of greater value than the C winner.

As it happens this year a C Pair placed first in the Pairs – so they won their Grade (equal prize money) and were also declared overall winners. Very Well Done to Dianne Hillman and Connie Cassar from the Gold Coast Bridge Club.

2. We trialled Cross Imps scoring for the Pairs event – Why?

Not only do we have a relatively small field but it is of very mixed bridge abilities. We have previously run our Pairs event as matchpoints, but is this the best for this field? Time for some research:

According to Queensland Bridge: *Cross-imping is a method of scoring Pairs events that is growing in popularity, and is slowly replacing Butler scoring around the world. In fact, outside Australia, Butler-scored events are rare, and cross-imp scoring is very popular. Perhaps the slow take-up in Australia is because it is not widely understood.* Go to: <http://www.qldbbridge.com.au/director/downloads/crossimping.pdf> for further explanation and illustrations.

So: What is Cross Imps Scoring?

Here your score is 'imped' against every other table in the field and then averaged. (Mathematicians will tell you the later in the calculation you take the average the better.)

Yes all a bit complicated, but:

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Our Conclusion for Our Pairs Congress: Matchpoints can give huge score variations especially in a mixed ability field. A strong pair playing a weak pair can grab most/all the matchpoints. Imps tends to be more popular because of less pressure on every board. The Cross Imps seems better/fairer than Standard Imps for Pairs events – so for this year Cross Imps is the go. And as NSW doesn't seem to have embraced this trend as much as Queensland let's hope we are trendsetters amongst NSW Clubs.

(You can find lots more info on these scoring alternatives with Google.)

Both these 'Innovations' seemed popular with the players.

Back to the Congress itself: Well Done to Everyone who participated and/or helped in the running of the event. We had oodles of food: lunches, cakes all day, and nibbles with presentation drinks. And for those who didn't feature in the \$ prize rundown, we had some lucky score wine prizes.

Oh – and our major winners are shown in the photos.



(Left) Overall Pairs Winners and C Grade: Dianne Hillman and Connie Cassar – with Chery McCallum left (Event Convenor) and Chris McDowell (Club President). (Middle) Pairs A Grade: Bill Powell and Marjorie Askew. (Right) Pairs B Grade: Peter McGruer and John Sheean.



Teams winners A Grade: Gary Lynn, Bill Powell, Eric Hurley and Marjorie Askew.

Teams winners B Grade: Paul Buck, Peter McGruer, Deb McLay, John Sheean.

Teams winners C Grade: Stephen Doherty, Lorraine Bryant, Damien Kennedy, Ken Jones .

And as an extra touch all winners received a Ballina Bridge Club 20th anniversary mug. We have been celebrating 20 years of our Clubhouse; a reminder of how thankful we are for the foresight, determination and hard-work of those members, and other contributors, who made our clubhouse a reality.



Our Director Chris Snook, always popular at Ballina for his calm, efficient running of the event, was also presented with a mug. (Photo of Chris on the left with Club President).

[...More results can be found HERE](#)