

**ENTERING CLUB SPECIAL EVENTS**

All Clubs on the Sunshine Coast hold various internal championship events throughout the year: Pairs and Teams Championships, President's Trophy etc.

These events are always "pre-entry", which means that you enter in advance (usually by putting your names on a notice board list), and there will be an advertised closing date. This is done for a number of reasons:

- The number of entries may determine the structure of the event to be run or the number of boards per round;
- Final numbers are needed to work out how many sets of boards have to be dealt; and
- An additional pair or team may be needed to fill a half-table or make up an even number.

Because of this, last minute cancellations are a problem for directors. The effort in preparing the movement and dealing boards may be wasted if there is a late withdrawal, and this can be disastrous if the withdrawal isn't known till the day of the event.

A similar problem occurs when a pair shows up on the day expecting to play, but failed to enter.

Worse still is when a pair or team withdraws part way through the event, say after one or two sessions have already been played. Replacements may not be available, and even if a replacement can be found, it is unfair that some opponents will have played the original pair and some will play the replacement pair. A still worse case scenario is that the event may need to continue with a half table, and that can result in a long sit-out and be unfair to players who played or didn't play the pair in earlier sessions.

Therefore, entering a club event should be seen as entering an agreement with the Club that you will play in all sessions with the partner as listed, or with a legitimate substitute.

Don't enter the event if it is possible that you will be unable to play in all sessions, unless you have a substitute lined up at the time. Ensure also that your use of a substitute complies with the Club policy which usually (but not always) allows one substitute per pair/team once for the event. Notify the director of the substitute as soon as you become aware yourself.

If the event is about to start or has already started and you find that your partner is unexpectedly unable to play in one of the sessions, it is your responsibility to make every effort to find a substitute. If you have difficulty finding a substitute, contact your club's Partnership Organiser.

Withdrawal from the event once entries have closed should be an absolute last resort.