

Alfred Sheinwold once said in relation to bridge "Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

How apt is this advice to the tricky, voluntary activity of being a bridge administrator? – In my experience, a lot.

BFACT has 900+ players who pay an annual capitation and has three main roles. First, it is responsible for running a number of competitions including Canberra in Bloom, State championships and selection events to choose players to represent the ACT at the national level principally in the Australian National Championships (ANC) and the Grand National Open Teams (GNOT). Every seven years or so, we have to organise an ANC here in Canberra. Second, BFACT has a broad mandate to promote the playing of duplicate bridge in clubs in the region (this includes director training, interclub competitions, youth bridge and start-up assistance for new clubs). Third, we represent the interests of ACT bridge players on the national body, the Australian Bridge Federation (ABF).

BFACT Councillors are volunteers and we are always looking for help with convening events and are looking for future counsellors. While people with board-type skills are very welcome, most volunteers do not have this sort of training and use life skills and common sense and these skills are extremely useful as well.