

Lorenzo turns 70 this month but will not tell me whether it is during the Yeh Bros Cup.

### **When do you plan to retire?**

"I don't know. I play at least five more years."

### **Do you feel as sharp as when you were younger?**

"It is different. I have more experience but the reflexes are not as sharp."

### **What will you do when Lorenzo retires?**

Alfredo: "I hope I can find a new partner after leaving Italy, because right now everybody is very upset with me," he laughs.

### **The Yeh Bros is the first event with your new team. What are your expectations?**

Alfredo: "I won this event a very long time ago playing with Sementa, Garozzo and De Falco. I always come with great pleasure to this tournament, always a very nice place, everything is perfect. Obviously with our team I hope to have a good result."

## **MEET BARRY RIGAL**



Many of the participants here travel the world pursuing our lifelong passion for bridge along with the hope of winning bridge titles along the way. Others however travel the same roads but are denied the opportunity of pursuing their passions in favour of supporting the tournaments that we all enjoy. They range from organiser and directors through to your humble bridge correspondents. Barry Rigal is one such person who has survived the test of time and has been attending bridge tournaments around the world for more than thirty years making it his full time profession twenty two years ago – yes he has good status with various airlines.

Born in central London 59 years ago, Barry may soon be considering competing in the various seniors tournaments that don't clash with his reporting duties. This December he will celebrate his twentieth wedding anniversary to Sue Picus who he notes leads their 'holder of World Titles competition' five and zero. They have resided in Central Manhattan for many

years however the word 'residing' is used loosely when you know that Barry plays professionally around 180 days a year and writes almost every day as well.

He learned the basic rules of bridge from his family but learned the game more formally at St Paul's School aged twelve. He went on to study at Queen's College Oxford starting for a BA in Latin and Greek with a Classic before switching to Hebrew (*hmm must ask him what prompted that decision*). Life direction changes saw Barry enter the workforce as an accountant, but after 15 years decided that this was not his calling in life.

His first bridge successes were second in the Cino del Duca in 1982 and making the final eight of the Gold Cup and Crockfords while still at University. He is confident that his squad remains the weakest to complete this double. More recently he has won two US National titles – the NABCs are the one event that Barry, without any writing gigs, is able to play in regularly. His more regular partners have included Peter Czerniewski (1984-1991), Jeff Aker (1998-2005) and his current partner Glenn Milgrim. In terms of which player past or present he would love to have had a game with – "maybe Terrence Reese in his prime".

His favourite tournament is the Board a Match Reisinger but he confesses that it is too hard for him while the occasional success is so much sweeter with the difficulty - but he enjoys the challenge. Going forward he looks forward to maintaining his current skills past 70 years of age and being a better partner (it is possible that this comment came from Sue, his wife).

On the question of systems he favours transfer responses to 1♣ opening or alternatively a strong club opening when not vulnerable. "with a standard base having a transfer response available by opener at his second turn makes life so much easier. The initial transfer responses by responder are a small plus as well of course. However I think that Strong Club with no pre-emption is obviously a better method". If he struggles with any aspect of the game it is opening leads about which he says "mark up a loss of 10 IMPs and move on "this is the part of the game where partner knows 26 cards when dummy comes down at least not the 13 that you have to choose from for the opening leads".

I asked Barry how he handles reviewing his performance after a session....."when I was young I lost a match by 1 imp and couldn't find it on my actions - probably more about my arrogance than anything else. I played a game to set the high percentage at the Young Chelsea and my partner (a stickler) and I independently decided we had done nothing wrong except bidding a game on a finesse that went down" (more suggestions – no post mortems with Barry).

Barry has been my co-editor for the Gold Coast Congress for the past eight years and having shared an apartment with him I have a very good idea of his hobbies. They include good food and wine (as he says check his waistline for evidence), classical music especially piano, word games (do not challenge him, trust me), watching sports, especially cricket and baseball and trivia (again do not challenge him). Another of his hobbies is reading, nay devouring bridge books, articles and bulletins where his favourite authors, apart from Rigal, are Reese, Kantar and Rubens the latter he regards as having a great wit. In fact Barry's tip to improve your game is to read read read and then read some more.

Again as President of the IBPA, Barry has a strong interest in the recent cheating scandals....."at the time I was shocked, shocked, shocked. Naively I believed in the purity of the game and goodwill of the people playing the game. Sitting here now it seems so obvious and the system let us all down. We need to work hard to ensure that those who choose to win by cheating are exposed and kept out of the game. I have a lot of respect for those who chose to speak out and expose the three pairs already convicted but I can't eliminate the doubt in the back of my mind about whether there are other cheats still playing the game at the top level".

Like most of us Barry is concerned about the future of the game. In his IBPA role, he fears that the dwindling number of newspapers and magazines carrying bridge articles and the ongoing difficulties in getting publishers on board for bridge related material is strong evidence of the waning interest in the game. To boost numbers Barry notes, "The future of the game lies in getting kids playing the game in school and to promote that concept the teachers in those schools have to be brought into the game. Patty Tucker in Atlanta, USA has a strong grass roots youth bridge scene and given her success NBOs should learn from her positive outcomes".

## 2017 Yeh Bros Cup Schedule

THURSDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> July					
09:30 – 11:40	Knockout 3, Seg. 1	16 bds	09:30 - 10:50	(4 teams) Cons. Swiss R6	Bds 21-30
12:00 – 14:10	Knockout 3, Seg. 2	16 bds	11:10 - 12:30	Consolation Swiss Rd 7	Bds 01-10
			12:50 - 14:10	Consolation Swiss Rd 8	Bds 11-20
	<i>Lunch Time</i>			<i>Lunch Time</i>	
15:30 – 17:40	Knockout 4, Seg. 1	16 bds	16:20 - 19:50	Open Pairs Qualification	Bds 01-27
18:00 – 20:10	Knockout 4, Seg. 2	16 bds			
FRIDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> July					
09:30 - 11:40	Final & Play-off, Seg 1	Bds 01-16	09:30-13:00	Pairs Semi-Final	Bds 01-27
	<i>Lunch Time</i>			<i>Lunch Time</i>	
13:10 – 15:20	Final & Play-off, Seg 2	Bds 17-32	14:00-17:30	Pairs Final & Consolation	Bds 01-27
15:35 – 17:45	Final & Play-off, Seg 3	Bds 33-48			
19:00	** Victory Dinner **				
VENUE LOCATIONS					
Hotel	Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo (the former Four Season Tokyo)				
Yeh Cup Bridge	Ballroom, Hotel 1F				
Victory Dinner	Jupiter, Plaza 4F (in the Plaza, located at another part of Chinzanso)				

### FREE LUNCH

On Wednesday and Thursday there will be 40 Japanese Lunchboxes and 40 Sandwich Lunchboxes available WITHOUT CHARGE on a first come first served basis.  
Note however that there will be no lunch service or boxes available on Friday