

Memoir of a Marathon

by Twstoflime (Sandy)

In 58 hours and 56 minutes, 577 boards were played in the BIL's New Year Eve Marathon-6.13 boards per minute. No fights broke out, no threats of boycotts-only the shared love of friendly competition by BIL Players Around the World.

In addition to the main table MARATHON09 and with so many BIL Players joining the fun, at one point 25 tables were in play - there could have been more at other times. Thousands of Billies shared the fireworks of New Year's Eve as it moved around the globe for nearly 59 hours- and a record for online bridge was established.

Many stories will be told by BIL Players about this marathon-now and in years to come. Here are several behind-the-scenes and up-front stories for your enjoyment.

In the planning stages, Roberta and Sandy were Skyping as they were writing a timeline for the event on their computers. Roberta complained of a slight headache. Sandy suggested they quit for the day. Roberta wanted to continue so they did. Perhaps an hour later as they moved into developing a tentative schedule for the BILManagers, Roberta said that she would get some Tylenol and be right back. The headache continued to worsen so they called it a day.

The next day, Roberta explained to Sandy that even though she was wearing her reading glasses to see the screen and material, she also had a pair of reading glasses on top of her head and over those glasses had the Skype headset. It became apparent the marathon might be called HEADACHE09.

During the marathon, Maureen who was serving the MARATHON09 table from her laptop in Temuka, New Zealand, began to panic. The laptop was over-heating and she had gone into the far reaches of her home to find fans to circulate the air around it. To have to switch computers in the middle of the marathon and restart the table count would have been total devastation. One of her friends with whom she was communicating suggested she elevate the laptop. Maureen replied, "I've already got the darned thing on top of a Cake Rack!"

A loving and beautiful touch as MARATHON09 was nearing its close was Nada's link to Louis Armstrong's version of *La vie en Rose*. <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=TbHAvBfmvFM>. Tears and cheers, Billies!

Ah . . . the stories that can be told. Sandy moving into dyslexia and Warren having to carry on the marathon so she would not be chatting to the BIL Players "HABBY NEW YEAR!"

Please share your humorous and memorable stories of online bridge, including those of MARATHON09, in the BIL's Alfresco Café discussion board-Stories of the Bridge Table.