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Bedford battle bags a red face

THE gloves were off, the fight fierce and a year's bragging rights were at stake in the Bedford Big Battle 2011.

But at the moment of claiming glory, the victor balked, stepped off the podium and called on compere Mark Aiston to call the honours.

The man who left the stage was Bedford Foundation chairman Richard Hockney, and his reluctance to read out the name of the winning corporate team in the charity's fund-raising quiz night last Thursday was quite understandable.

That's because the winner was Mr Hockney's own team, Westpac, which had soared from nowhere to scoop the prize in the final moment of tallying.

Westpac, which Mr Hockney heads in South Australia as state general manager, narrowly pipped the team from CMI in second place with PKF not far behind in third.

As well as Westpac, Bedford staff came away smiling with more than \$60,000 raised from the night.