

Illawarra Bridge Association

Newsletter December 2023

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1 Editorial

As we conclude another successful year of bridge at the Illawarra Bridge Association, the AGM has been held, the new Committee of Management has met to discuss arrangements for 2024 and the Tournament Committee has developed the schedule for 2024.

The intention is that the Newsletter will be published six times a year, in the week following each meeting of the Committee of Management. Deadline for all content will therefore be the Monday following Committee meetings. Please send contributions to both the editors Phil Barker (pjbarker64@gmail.com) and Dave Havyatt (david@havyatt.com.au).

The Editors wish you a very Merry Christmas and we will be back in the New Year.

2 Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Association was held on Saturday 26 November with 41 members in attendance (and a further 19 appointing a proxy).

In adding to her written report, the President, Jill MacRae, commented on a session put on by RealBridge for teachers and coaches. She said:

I had the privilege of attending a seminar put on by RealBridge in England for Bridge coaches and teachers. Most of the 15 sessions were concerned with growing club membership and teaching methods.

The one that stood out for me stated that we, as players are all pillars of the game. The speaker charged all Individual members with letting everyone they meet about the thrill of the game. Tell that dental hygienist before she sharpens her tools how you spent your morning with friends at IBA. This is the way to grow.

I am stepping down from the MC and I ask you to take up this challenge. Be a pillar of the game.

Jill made special thanks to the Directors and the Tournament Committee, and the pool of teachers and mentors. Jill especially thanked the executive –Vice-President Marie Pickering, retiring Secretary Carolyn Githens and Treasurer Ngaire Meehan.

All positions on the Committee of Management were elected unopposed. The new members of the committee are:

President: Marie Pickering

Vice-President: Dave Gallagher

Secretary: Maggie Havyatt

Treasurer: Ngaire Meehan

Ordinary Members: Phil Barker, Julie Cowling, Carolyn Githens, Carol Jeffs, Ken Soldi, Cheryl Waters, Chris Yates, Barb Overington

On the motion of Rob Kinloch and Jeff Carberry, Jill MacRae was then unanimously awarded Life Membership of the Illawarra Bridge Association Inc.

(All the presentations from the online conference Jill referred to can be found here <https://realbridge.online/teacher-coach-conference-2023-directory/>)

3 Jill MacRae – Life Member

Rob Kinloch made the following remarks in nominating Jill MacRae for Life Membership:

It is my absolute pleasure and indeed a great privilege to nominate Jill MacRae to life membership of the Illawarra Bridge Association.

Jill is an inaugural member of the IBA which was incorporated in 1994. She has been on the Management Committee since 2006, served as Vice President from 2015-2017 and has been President from 2017.

During her time as a Committee member, and particularly as President, the IBA has grown into a smoothly run organisation that welcomes all, encourages us to do our best and provides opportunities for our personal development.

Jill works quietly behind the scenes to ensure that the Club functions well. Her leadership of the Committee of Management has ensured that it, and by extension the club, continues to thrive. Jill's work as Congress Convenor over many years has meant that our Club has gained a reputation as a leader in smoothly run and well catered for Country Congresses.

Visitors comment glowingly about our friendly and professional atmosphere. Indeed, we gain new members because of this. This doesn't just happen. A lot of planning and work has happened behind the scenes and Jill has been at the forefront of this.

One obvious example of this is Jill's work thru the Covid years which enabled the Club to continue to function. She marshalled the Committee into seeking out different venues when our Club room was taken over by NSW Health. She embraced our venture onto on-line

bridge, seeing the positives for members during lockdown. She learnt how to set up on-line games and as our night-time numbers fell she took up directorship of the Monday Night Real Bridge sessions. Even when we ventured out of lockdown, she continued the Monday online session because she realised that members had embraced this form of the game.

Jill has a remarkably calm manner which has allowed her to deal so well with numerous issues. It often befalls to the President to deal with problems: the toilets don't flush, we need different biscuits AND please deal with A, B and C.

I have seen Jill convince the proponents of A, B and C that perhaps their view of the issue was – if not flawed – at least open to a different interpretation and that it was in the interest of all to accept the contrary view. This calm diplomacy is a real asset in any organisation, particularly bridge with its array of characters.

Since IBAND formed in 2006 through the hard work of many, Jill has, as first a member then Committee member and President, worked tirelessly to make IBAND an integral part of our Club and not just an adjunct.

It is her work with beginning players that is one of her great strengths and we as a Club are all the better for it. Bridge clubs survive only by bringing in new players. Jill's devotion to this area has ensured that not only has the IBA survived but has thrived.

She became an accredited Bridge Teacher in 2015 and began TAMS with Fran Lyon in the same year (TAMS is an acronym for Thursday AM Sessions- I think!). This was the Club's first foray into daylight lessons and has proved a winner!

Bridge Lessons are an important introduction to this amazing game and good teachers need not only to know the game but impart that knowledge to people so that they want to continue to learn its intricacies. The TAMS sessions under Jill's guidance and supervision give that in spades!

Jill has established a friendly secure environment where players learn and gain confidence to be able to dip their toes into the deep water at other sessions. She has overseen the innovation of an Introductory Package for new players which help familiarise them with the various facets of the IBA.

She has been instrumental in ensuring that the Club encourage novice players to play in State and Australia-Wide Congresses. It is no accident that pre Covid the IBA had the biggest Club contingent of Novice players at The Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra.

Jill's organisation of the HI-LO sessions also helps team up newer players with appropriate experienced players.

I could go on and list more of Jill's service to the IBA but surely, I have already convinced you that Jill MacRae is a worthy candidate for life membership of the IBA. I hope you support this motion.

Jan Greenlees then presented Jill with a terrarium as a memento from the club.



Jill MacRae (centre) with Rob Kinloch (left) and Jeff Carberry (right) in front of the Life Members Honour Board

4 Committee Report

As part of the restructure of bridge in NSW the new entity Bridge NSW is seeking a permanent part time Executive Officer. The position has been advertised on Seek here <https://www.seek.com.au/jobs?advertiserid=62151894>

The Committee reminds all members that the NSWBA have announced an increase in capitation fees and Masterpoint fees. This necessitates an increase in our membership fees, commencing in 2024, to \$30 for full membership and \$20 for concession.

The Committee of Management met on 9 December. Jeff Carberry was confirmed as the Chief Tournament Director. The Tournament Committee for 2024 will be:

Chairperson: Stuart Cutsforth

Secretary: Renate Lamarra

Members: Jeff Carberry, Rob Kinloch, Steve Hurley, Dave Havyatt

The Committee made the following appointments:

Office Manager	Ken Soldi
Web Manager	Cheryl Waters
Masterpoints Secretary	Malcolm Kerr
Partner Organiser	Julie Cowling
Newsletter	Phil Barker & David Havyatt
IBAND Contact	Barbara Overington
Teacher coordinator	Jill MacRae
Pianola contact	Carolyn Githens
Librarian	Liz Cusack
Hi – Lo	Jill MacRae
Well - Being	Aileen O’ Brien
Public Officer	Carolyn Githens
Assistant Treasurer	Carolyn Githens
Publicity Officer	Chris Yates

The Committee also appointed convenors for the three congresses the club will be running this year:

Chris Diment Congress	Marie Pickering assisted by Dave Gallagher.
September Swiss Pairs	Jill MacRae assisted by Dave Gallagher.
State Novice & Restricted Teams	Jill MacRae assisted by Erica Gray.

The Committee resolved that proceeds from the Christmas raffle will be donated to the local women’s refuge. Two charity events have been scheduled for 2024 to be organised by Kaye Hart. The “World’s Biggest Morning Tea” will be held on Wednesday 25th May. The second event will be lunch on Saturday 19 October after the teams championship.

Any member who has a key to the Figtree Hall is requested to have that key checked off the list keys with the Secretary.

When members know of other members who are unwell or otherwise in need of a message of good will from the club they should inform the Well-Being Officer, Aileen O’Brien.

Any information that needs to be placed on the club’s website should be forwarded to Cheryl Waters. Dave Havyatt has taken over administering the Facebook page (Illawarra Bridge Association Inc) and any suggested content should be sent to him. Any club members who are Facebook users are encouraged to Follow the page and to Like stories placed there. A big thank you to Cheryl Waters (and before her John Spira) for administering the page previously.

5 News from the North



It has been a great year at IBAND.

We have celebrated the gaining of a club master certificate by a gorgeous 94 year old Irish lady, who thought all her Christmases had come at once and the 96th birthday of an IBA stalwart, Joyce Hoyle. It is a pleasure to play with these ladies.

Our Wednesday afternoon group is attracting a minimum of 4 tables and Friday afternoons are raising the rafters, great to see.

Jeff has started doing his Friday talks again, which have been well received.

We are closing down on 15th Dec, with the usual end of year party: lunch at noon, fun bridge until 3.30, presentation and afternoon tea (?) afterwards.

IBAND will resume on Wednesday, 10th January.

Wishing you and your family a Christmas full of love and laughter.

Barb



6 Dates for 2024

The 2024 Calendar will include all the dates for club championships next year. However, just a heads up on some important events at the club and various congresses.

Jan 9-21	Summer Festival of Bridge, Canberra
Feb 4	66 Club Final
Feb 17-24	Gold Coast Congress
Feb 21	IBAND 18 th Birthday
May 18	IBA 28 th Birthday Party
May 24	World's Biggest Morning Tea
Jun 15-16	Chris Diment Congress
Jul 6-18	Australian National Congress, Orange NSW

7 Recent Results

The **Grand National Open Teams (GNOT)** Final was played in Brisbane over 1-4 December. Tablelands-Illawarra was allowed two entries, both of which were IBA teams. T-I 1 was the team of Paul and Helen Lavings, Kaye Hart, Vicky and Ian Lisle and Jeff Carberry. The members of T-I 2 were Martin Bunder, Liz Hurley, Stephen Hurley, Tony Wright.

A huge congratulations to the T-I 1 team; the team were the best regional team (and 6th overall out of 60 teams). As a consequence, they won the Chris Diment Trophy, very appropriate for an IBA team.



The team (from left to right) of Paul and Helen Lavings, Kaye Hart, Vicky and Ian Lisle and Jeff Carberry with the Chris Diment Trophy.

The State Novice and Restricted Teams was played at Central Coast Leagues Club on 11-12 November. The IBA team of B Rewers, J Rollinson, M Havyatt and D Havyatt won the Novice division. This is the second consecutive year for an IBA win.



State Novice Teams Winners: Dave Havyatt, B Rewers, Julie Rollinson, Margaret Havyatt and Alan Bustany (Director)

The **State Open Pairs** (incorporating **Country Pairs**) was played at the Sydney Bridge Centre on 18 and 19 November. Two Illawarra pairs contested; Liz and Steve Hurley and Moira Cunningham and Grant Cowen. Congratulations to Liz and Steve Hurley who finished second in the Country Pairs final.

The **Club Swiss Pairs** was played over 18 and 25 November. Congratulations to the winners, Paul and Helen Lavings.

- 1st P.Lavings, H.Lavings
- 2nd M.Pickering, C.Waters
- 3rd S.Cutsforth, R. La Marra

On Sunday 26 November the club hosted a local final of the **State Under 100 Master Points** (UHMP). A big thank you to Marie Pickering and Jeff Carberry for the work they do in ensuring these opportunities are available to IBA players. Seventeen pairs participated, of whom five were pairs whose home club isn't IBA.

Places at the IBA hosted Final went to:

- 1st R.McNally, E.McNally
- 2nd= C.Szency, G.Jones
- 2nd= F.Khoo (SHBC), M. Malcolm (SHBC)

Unfortunately, the State-wide scoring has not been completed in time for inclusion in this newsletter.

Also noteworthy was the outstanding result for IBA in Nationwide Pairs 23 (the day of the Christmas party). When scored across all 22 clubs participating, two IBA pairs took out the first and second place – both from the East-West side of the field. Ken McIvor and Colin Bale finished first with 67.527% (66.59% at the club) and Moira Cunningham and Grant Cowen were second with 67.493% (65.27%). Just as an indicator of how scores can change from the IBA result to the club result, the first two North-South pairs scored 57.964% and 57.904% down from 61.56 and 59.56 at the club (coming in 49th and 50th, behind five IBA pairs from the East-West field).

8 Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Thank you for a wonderful newsletter of August, incorporating, I think for the first time, colour photography.

I wish to comment on the article 'Floppers, Flashers and the Fall'. Your correspondent correctly refers to Laws 42, 43 and 45, but makes no reference to Law 16, Authorized and Unauthorized Information. 'Flopper', 'Flashers' and 'Fallers' beware. Any variation in the way the card is played potentially conveys unauthorized information to partner. Cards should be played consistently placing the card face up on the table without any undue emphasis or flare.

Some of the things I've seen: A former top club player (now deceased) used to play the cards normally, except when she was not interested in a suit led by partner in which case she would dis-interestedly throw the card from her hand. Another top player (also deceased) when playing a card with some specific meaning (a signal card) would look intently at the card as he slowly placed on the table, and then look intently at partner, looking for eye contact. Our own revered Chris Diment used to occasionally play the 'fall', I innocently mentioned to him one day that I always knew I would lose the trick when he did that – he never did it again!

Do not hesitate to call the director if you believe there may be unauthorized information (albeit unintentional) and hopefully we may be rid of the 'Floppers', 'Flashers' and 'Fallers' forever.

Jeff Carberry, chief tournament director.

(The editors apologise for not including this in the October newsletter)