



NEWSLETTER

Illawarra Bridge Association

Edited by Peter Graham

April 2016

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Coming Soon

April

Sat 16th GNOT 1

Sun 17th South Coast Autumn Teams

Mon 18th Mixed pairs championship & qualifier NSWBA Mixed Pairs (Figtree).

Wed 20th Red Masterpoints 2

Thurs 21st Red Masterpoints Teams 2

Sat 23rd GNOT2 Nation Wide Pairs.

Mon 25th Anzac Day

Sat 30th Hi-lo 2.

May

Sat 7th Nation Wide Pairs.

Sun 8th Mothers day

Mon 9th Red Masterpoints 1 Thirroul

Mon 16th Red Masterpoints 2 Thirroul

Sat 21st State Mixed Pairs champ at NSWBA qualifier Nation Wide Pairs.

Sun 22nd State Mixed Pairs Final & Autumn Swiss Pairs

June

Sat 4th Nation Wide Pairs

Mon 13th Queens Birthday

Thurs 16th Past Presidents Cup & Shield

Sat 18th Congress Open Pairs

Sun 19th Congress Open Teams

Congress

It is time now to start acting for our most important congress. Make up your teams so our committee can finalise plans. You would hate to miss out if our entries were closed with both halls 'sold out'. It is incumbent on each and

everyone of us to offer to help in whatever way we can. Every five minutes of help is five minutes less work for one of our hard working committee. Maybe you could bake a cake or a slice, or make a dozen or so sandwiches. Help set the tables, fold up the lucky door prize tickets etc etc. Let's show our appreciation to our committee for the work they freely do for us throughout the year. Do not wait, put your name down as willing to assist. (No experience required)

Hi-Lo 30th April.

Get your name down as a Low wanting a High, or as a High looking for a Low. Also as a High-High if that is your desire. It's a fun day. It can be quite a thrill for a newbie to play with one of us experts. (Well, that's what the newbies think we are). Whatever, put your name down and let's enjoy the day.

Unbelievable

I made up a poem a year or two back, the culmination of which was the bridge player had got her days mixed up, thinking Tuesday was Wednesday. Of course, this was fantasy, it could never happen. Lo and behold, it did. When a player had failed to turn up on a Wednesday morning at Figtree as kick

off time approached, a quick phone call was made. "Oops , sorry", said the player, "I was thinking this was Tuesday".

(ED). If what I make up is going to come true, then maybe I should make up a poem about the Illawarra bridge player who won a million dollars. Any volunteers to have their name used?.

Feelings

Played against Ngairé Meehan and Nicole De Fournier the other week when they bid and made grand slam (7D). When someone makes slam or grand slam against me, my thoughts can usually be summed up in a six letter word, the first letter of which is 'B'.

Because of the pleasure which showed on the faces of Ngairé and Nicole when the slam rolled in, I actually felt pleased for them. This continued as I watched the joy on their faces as they put their names in for the monthly grand slam draw.

However, I doubt if I will have those same feelings again if they make another grand slam against me.

Reluctant Admission

I have no doubt those of you who play at Figtree will have noticed that Andrew Smith is looking a bit pale faced lately. There is a reason for this. It seems that Andrew and Colin Bale, playing as partners recently, had a disagreement over a certain bid that was made. In the 'discussion' that followed , Andrew proved beyond doubt that his interpretation was 100% correct. "Oh well", said Colin, "I suppose you are probably right".

It seems that Andrew got such a shock that Colin would even admit that Andrew was 'probably' correct , that Andrew took a bit of a turn and his face turned ashen grey. Fortunately, time is healing and his face is now gradually turning back to a

more normal colour.

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Talking of Colin, he and I were chatting over a cup of coffee, during the interval, standing outside at Figtree, when the Club order of toilet paper was being delivered. Both of us thought it seemed rather a big lot of toilet rolls. However, on reflection, both of us realised it was obvious why such a large order was needed. After all, the way the cards are often distributed, and the luck that opponents consistently get, it's only natural that many bridge players so often get a dose of --- -----.

First Time

Something happened recently which was a first timer for me. We were playing against George Czubala and Eddie Weich, in one of those distributional deals that get so many partnerships into trouble. My partner Cathie Vojtech showed a weak two Spades. George bid 4D. I doubled. Eddie bid 4NT. I doubled George bid 5D. I doubled. Eddie bid 5NT. I doubled. (Don't you love it when the opponents seem to be fighting each other). End result 4 down doubled. First time I have ever doubled four times in a row. Four doubles in a row x.x.x.x.

I reckon that deserves a beer.

I could write about what happened in the following hand but I have decided not to.

Action Required.

I would like to see our committee taking steps to curb the amount of noise made at our club. It is so bad that sometimes I can't even hear myself talking for the din made by members.

Ego Buster

Husband. Would you like to go on a second honeymoon?.

Wife. Depends who with.

Poetry

Please enjoy two more efforts from our resident poet, Lurline Bell

Decisions

The words to you that I must say,
are, "Dearest Love, please stay away"
My heart is breaking, yes, it's true,
I've loved no one before but you,
But I can't bear this dreadful pain,
Of you leaving and returning again,
So stay away, until the time,
You come to me, and say you're mine,
And then one day, I might find,
That I've regained my peace of mind.

Confusion

I'm so confused, so full of doubt,
I just don't know what life's about,
My life before was so serene,
I hid behind a rosy screen,
My whole life is in jeopardy,
What is to become of me?,
Just what has wrought this awesome
change,
My body tense, my mind deranged,
It's love no less, and that is true,
And it's all because I'm in love with you,
And you're not free, so I can't shout,
I know what love is all about,
To hide my feelings cause me pain,
So please make our love right again,
Give me a love that's very true,
And I will make life sweet for you.

Little White Lie.

Sitting in our lounge room, my wife was very much down in the dumps, feeling really unwell. My I-Pad pinged, signalling an incoming e-mail message. It was an advert for taking out a funeral plan. My wife asked, "What was the message?". I replied with a lie.
Wouldn't you?.

TAMS

Thursday Morning Supervised Play SESSION at 9.30 am Thursdays.

SUPERvisors: Frances Lyon, John Spira and Jill MacRae.

TAMS has just completed its first round of INTRODUCTORY BRIDGE lessons, ably delivered by Frances Lyon and supported by J.Spira. Fran's paced lessons followed Paul Marston's book "Introduction to Bridge", and wowed the attendees with her humourously animated presentations. Our volunteer base of C.Jeffs, A. Dippenaar, K.Soldi enabled us to have an experienced player sitting with the new players during play. The Graduation ceremony was held on Thursday 24th March 2016. The 19 graduating new players, accompanied by the usual TAMS players, enjoyed a banquet luncheon in the club rooms at the end of the session. A special thank you goes to all contributors to the feast.

TAMS sessions continue after Easter at 9.30 am with tutorials designed to consolidate and extend bridge knowledge with alternating sessions on bidding and play. Early tutorials this term will be on bidding and playing in No Trumps. Each tutorial is enhanced with hands selected and dealt for their relevance to the topic of the day. Tutorials are followed by a play session. Play concludes at midday or thereabouts if players wish to complete hands. Reminder to graduands that their 3 free lesson vouchers remain current for an extended period to cater for those little holidays that drag you away from the Bridge table.

If you are an experienced player and would like an extra game of bridge during the week, you will be welcomed as we often need volunteers to make up a full table
Jill MacRae for Frances Lyon & John Spira (ED). Well done Jill and little elves, great job.

A woman is like a tea-bag. You never know how strong she is until she gets into hot water. Eleanor Roosevelt.

From Barb Overington

IBAND turns 10

It all started when George Cole put an advertisement in The Northern Leader asking for anyone interested in forming a Bridge Club in the northern suburbs to come to a meeting in early February at Austinmer Bowling Club. He had 8 starters from the course he had run for 2 terms at the local U3A and he invited John Spira to come and talk about how a bridge club ran. Word spread and over 30 people attended the meeting. Some of the group had experience in playing duplicate bridge, the rest had played rubber bridge or five hundred. I hadn't played bridge since returning to Australia 8 years previously. It didn't dawn on me until I was sitting in the meeting how much I had missed it. Interest was keen to start a club and Paul Tuckerman offered the Thirroul Railway Institute Hall as a venue. We each donated \$50 to set the club up. A starting date was set for 22nd February.

After John Spira spoke about duplicate bridge it was obvious that very few in the group knew the magnitude of running bridge sessions. It was decided to approach IBA for advice and the possibility of becoming a sub branch – which we did and the money was refunded. Chris Diment provided copies of Paul Masters Introduction to Bridge. George did a crash course with his group to introduce the modern american system and we were off!

We had computer generated boards on Wednesday and hand dealt boards on Friday. Chris directed the first few sessions and taught Lindsey how to score on the computer. Mike Fabjanczk became our first director and remained so until illness forced him to give up bridge. George ran Friday afternoons, followed by drinks at the Thirroul Bowlo, a good time was had by all. Monday night bridge started 5 years later.

The last 10 years have flown. It's a pleasure to see so many people enjoying themselves in the mystical world of bridge. The club remains strong, we have welcomed many new members, friendships have been made, above all the laughter and camaraderie are wonderful long may it continue. Here's to the next 10 years.

Happy bridging,
Barb Overington



George Cole



Bronwen Cole cutting the cake.

(Ed). Thanks Barb, it is always a pleasure to write something in the Newsletter involving Thirroul branch, especially something as good as the above.

Pass It On

I never seem to bump into Ian Porter these days. Members, when you see Ian, will you please advise him that Falkirk beat Rangers 3-2. I really would hate Ian to have missed that score. (Giggle, giggle).

MEA CULPA

From Rob Kinloch

66 CLUB RULING/APPEAL.

The Director was called to a table during the 66 Club played on Sunday 7th February 2016:

Board 16

W	N	E	S
1H	P	2S*	3D
4S	P**	P	5D
X			

2S* alerted as 10+ HCPs and 5+ Spades when asked by N after the 4S bid

P** agreed hesitation

When I was called the bidding had not finished. I told the players to finish the bidding and that I would review the auction.

After some consideration I determined that the bid could stand but I also decided to seek the input of two other directors. As they were both playing this had to wait to the end of the session. Seeking advice from experienced players is a common practice.

At sessions end I approached Andrew Smith and Jeff Carberry (Chief Tournament Director) for their input.

After discussion it was decided that my initial decision would be upheld.

I announced the winners but stated that this was subject to appeal. The non-offending pair had actually left the room and gone home.

At the next session (Monday night) I approached one of the players and told him of my decision and their right of appeal. I mentioned that I was fairly certain that there was a time limit on the appeal and that that had expired but that the player could discuss it with his partner and get back to me. Subsequent to this the pair decided to appeal my decision.

Since then I have revisited the the IBA Tournament Rules which follow the NSWBA Tournament rules:

B. FORM AND TIME OF APPEAL

3.3 *An appeal must be lodged within the time specified in the Supplementary*

Regulations. In the absence of such specification, the following time limits apply.

a) *In the course of a multi-session event the time for lodging an appeal is prior*

to the commencement of the next session.

b) *In the case of a single session event or the last session of a multi-session event or match, (Law 92B) the time is 30 minutes after the official score has*

been made available for inspection. (The Director should ensure that this time is displayed.)

c) *Appeals relating to scores must be lodged within the above time limits or 30 minutes after a ruling is made and announced, whichever is the later.*

As a consequence I find that the appeal is invalid and can announce that the winners of the 66Club for this year are Liz and Steve Hurley.

I apologise for not knowing clearly the laws and my attempt to try to be fair to all parties was not allowed by LAW! Laws are there for very good reasons – to prevent stuff ups like this!

BASIS FOR MY DECISION:

The hand:

BD: 16	♠854	Dlr: W
	♥AT73	Vul: E-W
	♦642	
	♣A72	
♠K92		♠AQJT763
♥KJ952		♥Q4
♦A9		♦T
♣QT3		♣J86
	♠	
	♥86	
	♦KQJ8753	
	♣K954	
	♣ ♦ ♥ ♠	NT
N	1 4 - - -	8
S	1 4 - - -	13
E	- - 2 4 2	9
W	- - 1 4 2	

The following advice was given to IBA Directors last year

The hesitation has given partner unauthorised

information. The Director needs to determine whether partner has acted on this unauthorised information.

1. **Hesitations-** Hesitations are often the cause of much angst at the table – determine what happened – often getting the player to admit that they had “a little think” and bid out of tempo is the hard part! Remember to assure the players that thinking is an important part of bridge! However there are rules that need to be followed.

the following is taken from the South African Bridge Association and the ACBL

1. Bids made after a hesitation by partner, especially when the hesitation is followed by a pass, may be construed as having been influenced by the hesitation. The partner of the player who hesitated should, in such a circumstance, ensure that they have full values for their call because a marginal call may be construed as having been influenced by partner’s hesitation.
2. Players in this situation are required by the Laws not to choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information (Law 16B and Law 73C).
3. Failure to follow this practice may be judged by a Director as having been influenced by the hesitation.
4. NOTE THAT A hesitation is seldom an infraction of the Law and a bid by the partner of the player who has hesitated might be perfectly legal.
5. Opponents should refrain from calling a Tournament Director until such time as it appears that they may have been prejudiced by the call following the hesitation and no later than the end of play of the hand.
6. Players may reserve their rights during the course of a hand, but it is not necessary to call a Tournament Director for this purpose unless there is a dispute at the table. Players do not have the right to ask a Tournament Director to make any ruling until after the play of the hand is completed and a Tournament Director

must not comment on the hand until then.

7. Any such adjustment will only be made within the Law 79C correction period. If subsequent to the irregularity, the non-offending side has contributed to its own damage, the provisions of Law 12C 1 B will be

1. **The director’s first responsibility is to establish the fact that a hesitation did in fact take place.** When the director is called to the table during the auction and it is reported that an undue hesitation has occurred.

2. **Next, the director should advise the partner of the hesitator what is expected:**

Example: The partner is not to take advantage of information gained by the out-of-tempo action, but to make any clear-cut calls that would have been made.

3. **The director then should order the auction to proceed.**

4. **Directors should not make a ruling until the conclusion of play,** at which time they will either allow the result to stand or assign an adjusted score. They should clearly state, “My ruling is ...” to avoid uncertainty as to his decision.

The best way to handle this ruling is to tell players to temporarily record the score achieved at the table, making it clear that you have not yet made a decision. Then return with your ruling to both pairs a round or two later. Tempers will not be as frayed, and the players will be more inclined to listen to your ruling. They will also feel that you have devoted time to consider the case.

I determined that even with North’s hesitation South’s 5D bid was justified. It was a strong playing hand with little defensive values. EW had limited their hands and were not looking for slam so South could rely on partner for some points. NS were not vulnerable.

Rob Kinloch

(Ed). The above shows the lengths our Directors are prepared to go to to ensure we are governed correctly.

I hear that there are three kinds of bridge players.

The brilliant, the consistent and the majority.

Kiama Restricted Pairs

Numerous tribes of warriors descended on Kiama on 20th March to battle for the honour of winning the coveted Kiama Restricted Pairs. An army of twenty four went there to fight for the glory of IBA.

Numerous pairs duels were fought throughout the day. Many combatants were knocked down, some to stay down, but others recuperated and rose to fight on.

A truce was called midway through the day, but after refreshing themselves, the warriors hurled themselves at each other again.

The battle swayed to and fro but, in the end, the lessons learned and the weapons provided, at Figtree and Thirroul, by the mighty leaders of the IBA, proved too much for the opponents and gained IBA the winning crowns. Chieftain of the day, Jeff Carberry, declared Jeanette Marvel and Carol Jeffs the champions, with Phil Barker and Dave Gallagher the runners up. Moira Cunningham and Dave Mathie defeated all in the u/50mp section. IBA claimed six spots in the top ten.

All participants, winners and losers, declared it was a top day.

Grand Slam

The latest Grand Slam draw was made on 2nd April, with Marie Pickering and David Higgins winning the prize. My name was in the draw so what do I think about not winning?. Maybe that six letter word starting with 'B'.

A Way To Improve

I am surprisd that some members do not keep a running score sheet, pick up the hands record sheets at the end of play, then study what happened during the bridge session. I always do, so I can study the mistakes I had made during play. I can honestly say I learn from my mistakes, so much so that I can repeat them perfectly.

That's my lot or this letter. Committee Minutes are attached.

Till next Time
P.B.G.(ED).

Committee Jottings

2nd April 2016

Office Managers Report from Ken Mc Ivor

No items outstanding

- On 23rd March council had an open inspection for groups interested in the allocation of licenses for this area and the APA section of the building. A women's association group and a group under the name "Affinity" with a couple of other groups who only had a brief look through. It was hard to read their real intent. Now we have to wait on council's next move. We do not have to submit any reports etc at this time.
- Outdoor Club have booked next 3 months in advance. This month Saturday 23rd April.

Lessons

TAMS

The introductory lessons attracted 21 starters in late February. Attendance fluctuated between 21 and 19. Fran Lyon prepared and presented each of the 5 lessons, very ably and according to the STEAM method of teaching. A graduation ceremony was held on 24th March followed by a sandwich lunch. 16 players attended the next session (Thursday 31st) keen to learn more. There were 7 tables on Thursday morning.

Well done Fran and Jill.

Looking for a partner?

- Please give Marie a ring or e-mail if you are looking for a partner.
- Contact her at pickering_marie@hotmail.com or on 0422375712 42615483

Name Badges

- If you would like one of our name badges please complete the form on the notice board in the club room. A new order will be sent soon.

Controlling the temperature in the club room.

The committee continues to discuss this very important issue. Our Air conditioner is due for a service in June when we will be asking about fresh air coming into the room. When we are discussing the lease with council we will be talking about the inadequacy of our current system.

Lindsey is investigating planting trees that will sit 3m out from the wall and provide shade for the club room.

Deactivation of non active members

There were 51 people who were deactivated. This process will save the club approximately \$1000. A big thank you to Lindsey

Mobile Phones

- Please remember to turn off or put your phone on silent during play. Please advise the director if you are expecting an important call.